

Spare Change

Helping People Help The

Simon
sings
for his supper



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► YOUR VENDOR PAYS UP TO 50¢ PER COPY OF SPARE CHANGE • SOLD BY DONATION



from THE STREET PRESS

Fast trains running

Passengers on a Seoul, Korea train were dismayed recently when they heard their driver snoring over the intercom. As the noise got louder, the train went faster, whizzing through two stations at which it was due to stop. Despite being slowed by safety devices it still arrived at its destination 10 minutes early, ploughing through a barrier and depositing its passengers, unharmed, in the middle of a restaurant.

If that isn't fast enough, try something really fast, Italian public transport. Rome police recently gave chase to a bus travelling at almost twice the legal speed limit. When they drew alongside, however, they were confronted with signs held up by passengers declaring: "Please help us. Drunken driver", and "He's signing Nessum Dorma. Don't let us die." They eventually stopped the bus and arrested the driver, who said: "I had a tuna sandwich and it must have disagreed with me." ♦

From The Big Issue, London England's street-sold magazine.

Village of Minas de Oro tackles restoration of Honduras ecosystem

BY JEANINE RHEMTULLA

You can almost watch the forests disappear as the fields cut into the steep mountainside tree cover, as the long file of men, women, and children passes by loaded down with freshly cut firewood, as the night-poachers steal the beautiful giant pine trees for export to the United States.

The people of Minas de Oro, a small village nestled in the deforested mountains of northern Honduras, have watched their trees disappear for decades. As the forests have gone, so have the water and soil. The rainy season starts later and later each year, many rivers have become streams, and many of these streams now dry up midway through the dry season, leaving entire communities without water for drinking, washing, or irrigation. When the hard rains do come, the bare soils are washed down the slopes in vast rivers of brown. Without the soils and the rains, it becomes harder and harder to grow corn and beans. No forests, no rain, no food.

As the community of Minas de Oro starts to understand the connections between forests, water, and soil, they are organizing to repair the natural ecosystem so that it will be able to support their basic needs of food and water.

It's a difficult job. Firewood is needed because most women still cook over open fires. Trees are also cut to provide more cropland, as existing cropland yields less and less corn because of lost soils. Fertilizers are expensive, and only fix the problem temporarily; meanwhile, people are starving. There are few jobs here, so those who cannot grow enough food rarely have the money to buy it. The temptation to flee to the city is great.

The community has started by tackling the most urgent problem first – ensuring everyone has enough to eat. They have joined together to create a small grain cooperative. A communally-owned plot of land is planted with corn; the harvest is dried and stored in silos. As villagers finish their personal supply of corn, they can buy from the coop at much reduced prices.

Meanwhile, another group of villagers is starting a reforestation project. Many different kinds of trees are being grown to meet the various needs of the community. Quick-growing trees can be periodically pruned for firewood; fruit trees, like mango and avocado, will add variety to their diet. Some trees are "fertilizer-factories" that add nitrogen to the soil; other trees provide fodder for livestock, or fruit to attract the wild birds

and animals back. All the trees help hold down the soil and stabilize the water cycle.

A women's group meets for a weekend workshop on how to build fuel-efficient stoves. They begin by making adobe bricks moulded out of local mud. These are fitted together in a stove shape; a fire is built in the hollow centre and pots set over holes on the top of the stove. Smoke rises through a chimney and out the roof. These stoves use less firewood than open pit fires, and have the added advantage of eliminating smoke from the kitchen. No more reddened eyes or tear-steaked faces!

Other courses are organised to teach villagers how to build live barriers – strips of plants across the slopes that will stop the soil from washing away. They learn how to compost, to build up nutrients in the soil without having to buy expensive fertilizers.

Work is slow and often frustrating. The grain cooperative still can't meet the demands of the whole community. Many tree seedlings die during the severe droughts of the dry season. Irrigation is needed, but pumps are simply too expensive. The stoves are much appreciated, but the material for the chimney needs to be bought, and not all families can afford this. Capital is required to create a revolving loan fund so that everyone will have access to this technology. The neighbouring village has not yet perceived the link between the disappearing forests and the increasing droughts, and continues to cut trees.

Minas de Oro is a strong community, however. They have a vision, and they are working

together to see it realized. Their approach is integrated; they attack the problem from many angles at once. By working to restore the natural ecosystems, they hope to restore their own self-sufficiency.

Jeanine Rhemtulla has recently returned from Central America where she worked with Vancouver-based organization SAPED to support communities initiating integrated ecological development projects of this type. For more information, call 434-5352. ♦



Sifting corn grains before storing in silos (top). Experimenting with a hydram – a water pump that lifts water with the force of gravity and other physical principles (right).



Feed the FOOD BANK

Edmonton's Food Bank feeds up to 10,000 Edmontonians in need every month. Up to one-third of these people in need are children under 12 years of age. Please help the Food Bank ensure that they don't go hungry.

FOOD BANK SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ Beans with Pork
- ☐ Canned Fish/Meat
- ☐ Macaroni & Cheese Dinners or Pasta
- ☐ Baby Food
- ☐ Peanut Butter
- ☐ Powdered Milk
- ☐ Soup

Monetary donations also gratefully received. Food donation may be left at all Fire Halls or major food stores. For more information on how you can assist the hungry in your community, contact one of the following local Food Banks.



Edmonton Food Bank
(403) 425-4190
Saskatoon Food Bank
(306) 664-6565
Regina & District Food Bank
(306) 791-6533
Calgary Interfaith
(403) 253-2059

Help People Help Themselves • At Home & Abroad

Save the rainforest as you savour scrumptious, buttery cashew and Brazil nut 'brittle'! By buying the fruit of the rainforest, you help make the trees more economically valuable standing than cut down. your purchase of **Oxfam Canada's Bridgehead Rainforest Crunch** also benefits the **Spare Change** newspaper.

All natural ingredients, no preservatives. Each box contains 226.8 g of candy.

To place your Christmas order: Call **The Center for International Alternatives** in Edmonton at 439-8744. Or in Calgary, call **The Arusha Centre** at 270-3200.



\$5.95

VENDOR • Profile

Donald Starling

BY LEONARD SCHULTZ

Donald Starling is a bouncy, full-of-energy guy. He is devoted to selling **Spare Change** to supplement his government support. He sells about 400 papers a month, but he would like to see that figure double so he could work his way out of government dependency. "Selling **Spare Change** is the greatest thing since sliced bread," says Donald.

Donald has a medical condition and has been labelled a "slow learner", "slightly retarded" and other negative-image names by people he's dealt with in his brushes with the "helping" agencies. Donald is a graduate of the school for slow-learners. He seems to be an enthusiastic learner and would like eventually to learn computer skills. He is full of energetic ideas on how to expand his business, and he is committed to putting his ideas into practise. These are signs of personal courage and Donald's devotion to a good work ethic.

Donald works long and varied hours. He can be seen most half-decent weather days standing just east of the Capitol Square building in downtown Edmonton. At night he'll appear outside the theatre to sell to movie-goers. In bad weather Donald can be found in the Eaton Centre Pedway or at Central Station. Selling **Spare Change** is his job

and he frowns on those not as committed and industrious as he is.

At 38, Donald is a warm and wonderful individual. He's an upbeat salesman and has a pleasant talking manner. He thinks he'd be good at selling over the phone. His secret ambition is to become a radio announcer but he knows he'd have to study for years to make this dream come true. But who knows? Donald has nowhere near tapped into his potential reserves for personal development. A bit of a hand-up and Donald's well on with his struggle for self-sufficiency.

Donald's been selling the newspaper since March and he says, "Ya know, if I had to, I'd sell **Spare Change** until I dropped dead of living. Better this than being a government-dependent for the rest of my life." You have to admire spirit like that! ♦



PHOTO • LESTER FOSTER

Saskatoon vendor says thanks for support during marathon

BY LINDA BIGGS

Words can't express the gratitude I feel for the support I received during my marathon sale of **Spare Change** in August to raise money for my little boy's grave head stone. I experienced first-hand the warm hearts of Saskatoon.

I'd like to thank Midtown Plaza for allowing me to sell my paper in front of the plaza. It would like to

say thank you to Graveside Memorial for letting me buy the headstone at cost. I'd also like to thank the Saskatoon news media for their coverage.

I'd also like to thank Robin Bellamy for his support and help. My husband Philip for bringing my meals and making sure I had enough papers. To Fran's Gifts for doing the lovely flower arrangement for the memorial service. I'd also like to thank every-

one who took part in the memorial service, Pastor Ken Rutherford, Arnee Fehderau.

And I'd like to thank the people of Saskatoon for buying the paper and taking time to talk to me. If it wasn't for the big and warm hearts of Saskatoon my wish would not have come true. And that was a headstone for my little boy. The last thing I could give him. Thank you Saskatoon! ♦

GET IN TOUCH ELECTRONICALLY

You can reach **Spare Change** with your computer via the Internet. **Spare Change** has an Edmonton FreeNet account and we'd like to hear from you on our e-mail. Your letters, suggestions or even submissions or articles are warmly welcomed. You can reach **Spare Change** at: sparech@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Send us a note.



**Spare Change
Authorized
Vendor**

Vendor Name _____
Number _____
Authorized by _____

SPARE CHANGE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working
- I will be polite to all members of the public
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized

All **Spare Change** vendors are required to wear an ID badge (contents above) and abide by a code of conduct. If you have any comments about our vendors, phone our distribution manager in your city (see page 5).

LETTERS

Enlightening paper

I support the licensed vendor's who are out selling the **Spare Change** paper. I find it very enlightening. I also have a very hard time making ends meet. I am a war widow, a senior on a very limited income, at the moment in not good shape.

Keep up the great work and God bless you all. ♦

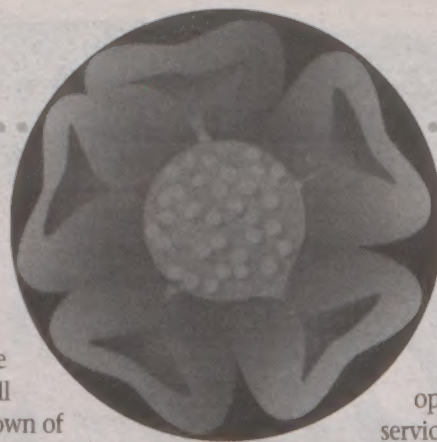
MARGO H. HARMAN

Albertan's create

Albertans in a number of communities have formed a coalition or "common front". These are Albertans who are opposed to the severe cuts to provincial social programs and believe that these cuts do not have to be made. Members of Common Front believe that Albertans do have choices and that those choices must be made through a democratic participatory process which will allow for the eradication of the deficit and the pay down of the debt in an equitable, fair and rational manner.

Alberta's Common Front has chosen as their symbol, the Wild Rose. A leaflet produced by Alberta's Common Front states that the Wild Rose symbolizes for many Albertans "a heritage of commitment to each other, to the quality of life and to future generations."

Common Front also states that the time frame set by the Alberta



"Common Front"

government for balancing the budget in four years is excessively short, and has too many negative social, economic and political consequences.

Community Action Teams (CATs) have been formed in over 15 communities using the common front approach. CATs use a grass roots process for identifying and working with other people who oppose the Alberta government's cuts to programs and services. These teams allow members of Common Front to respond on a local basis to the concerns being expressed in their own communities. There are CATs in Edmonton and Calgary.

In Edmonton contact Del Marlow at 462-4850 or Phyllis Matoushek at 488-4954 for more information.

In Calgary, contact Tim Wild at 283-2871 for more information. ♦

We had three guests for Christmas

BY LINDA DUMONT

There was Stanley, a resident of an inner city rooming house. He was a polio victim and walked with the aid of crutches. I had gone with him to several appeals for AISH (aid to the handicapped) but each time he had been turned down, not so much because of his physical condition, as because he was an alcoholic. Stanley was always one to give small gifts. I still have the velvet painting of a ship, blue on a sea of black that he gave me one night, saying, "Take it. Everyone here is trying to steal it."

MacDuke and Kenny, both residents of a home for the hard-to-house, were our other two guests. MacDuke was prematurely grey, slow moving and soft spoken. He had arthritis. He also loved children, and had given my little one a Laura Secord cup with a large chocolate Easter egg inside it.

Kenny had been left crippled by a polio compounded by a car accident. He also walked with crutches and a leg brace. He was frequently hospitalized for

alcoholic seizures. Kenny was receiving AISH, and he was always ready to help with the little extra money he had.

Christmas Day I was to pick up all three guests, but MacDuke couldn't wait. He arrived early in a taxi with a gift, a bottle of vodka for my husband. They started on before dinner cocktails while I went to pick up the others.

I had a little trouble fitting all those crutches into the little Toyota and Stanley complained about the small size of the car as he struggled to wedge his stiff leg inside. Stanley and Kenny had also brought their own bottle, ginseng brandy.

It wasn't a fancy Christmas. My hus-



band was a college student, then. We had a turkey from a hamper brought by the church, and a tree picked up a few days before from a local school. The decorations were a bit sparse, but it looked Christmasy. Under the tree there was a present from Santa's Anonymous for my daughter. She was due back soon from her visit to her grandmother's.

By the time dinner was ready, no one wanted to eat. The men were all sprawled in the living room, two on the floor, one on a chair, and one on a couch. When I asked about dinner, only Stanley answered.

"Call an ambulance," he said. It took me a few minutes to realize that

he was serious. He had pancreatitis, and felt another attack coming on.

With Stanley gone, and the others sleeping off the cocktails, I ate a solitary dinner in the kitchen. My daughter arrived and opened her present, a Barbie doll. We were playing with it when the men revived. MacDuke was friendly and wanted to play along with her, but she wasn't about to share with him. She went to her room.

The men ate a dinner of rewarmed turkey with all the trimmings. They thought it was a great Christmas.

I didn't know it at the time, but it was to be the last Christmas, for all three of our guests.

Before the year passed, MacDuke was beaten to death in an argument over a bottle of wine. Kenny died of pneumonia after refusing to go to the hospital. Stanley was stabbed to death in a coke house.

Life on the drag is a fragile thing. ♦

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NO G.S.T.

10am-5:30pm Mon-Fri

We also have a large selection of antiques, furniture, toys, jewellery, books and household items

Hang out the stockings

If you don't have a chimney how will Santa Claus reach you? If you don't have a home, where do you hang the stockings? Christmas can be the coldest, loneliest time on a prairie street. But often it's not.

Turkey and stuffing. Hot, warming food given generously by others. Special meals cooked together with friends and family. Feeling warm and comfortable at Christmas has a lot to do with a full stomach and this issue *Spare Change* talks a lot about food and cooking. Whether you have a home or not, you've got to eat.

When is food shared more than any other time? The holiday season. The hamper deliverers, the soup lines, and the community dinners are stretched further than ever by growing demand from more and more hungry people. Let's hope the warmth of sharing food makes it go further.

Tough times say Scrooges

Sitting back at Christmas, maybe a cup of coffee in your hand, watching the kids put a little more tinsel on the tree. Sure, there's a lot more hustle and bustle to go through... too much more money to spend...

For most of us things are tighter this Christmas, even if we're not hanging our stockings on lampposts. If you do have a job there's likely less money in your pocket, or maybe a bigger hole in the credit card, than for Christmas past.

Tough times they say – don't know why – but that's what they say. People have been working for generations, building up this country, more houses, roads, better factories, more apartments, toilets, ironing boards. Canadians work hard, when they get the chance. That work has created so much of what people need, so much for "the good life." But we can't have it. Tough times. There are food surpluses. Farmers are stopped from producing more eggs, wheat, butter. But people go hungry. Tough times. We have less and less after all this effort? We're going backward, getting poorer?

The Scrooges say the times are tough. They are pulling in the belts of the people who have the least. Cutbacks and social program "reform" are coming so we "live within our means". But are our "means" so much less than they were a few years ago? The Scrooges are telling us we have to face a very scary ghost of Christmas future.

Other people don't think Christmas should have to be like that. Comments on cutbacks and social program "reform" are coming in to *Spare Change* and some appear in this issue. ♦

KEITH WILEY

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

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"THE CORNER"



Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Simon sings for his supper

Even as the weather grows colder, hardy musicians are still performing out on the street.

Busking, street performing, singing for your supper: it is an old, and now very cold, art. Simon Gagnon plays the guitar on the street and makes a little money for his trouble. When the December wind blows on the strumming fingers, every quarter and loonie tossed into the case is a hard-earned coin for Simon. ♦



Why I believe in Santa Claus

Because he came to my house one day. Not when I was little and laid a stocking at the end of my bed. And not when I was first married and my husband was full of inventive ways to surprise me. He came to my house when I was a sophisticated teenager and knew all there was to know about the world. In fact, though, it wasn't me he had come for, it was my mother. He only came that one Christmas. Perhaps that's all we ever get from Santa. Just one visit in a lifetime. After all it really is a very big world and the real Santa, even if he does have very fast reindeer and all sorts of magic would be hard pressed to get to all the world's children. Maybe that's why it took him so long.

Christmas is a bittersweet time for my mother. My father, whom she adored, died one day in late November and so the joy of the season is always inextricably mixed with his passing and the memory of that first Christmas after his death. She is also the kind of person who gives to anyone and everyone and so our Christmas dinner tables were always crowded with friends, relatives, and people-with-no-family-in-town. The busyness of the day I'm sure helped make its passing easier.

Then one Christmas eve Santa stopped by our house and everything seemed to slow down. We

didn't see him. He came during the night or early morning, the way Santa is supposed to. The normally attentive dogs didn't hear, or were not bothered, by his appearance and he left no trace of his coming or going in the fresh snow.

We all fully expected "Santa" to call during the day and receive his due, both in congratulations and thanks, and we ourselves spent much time trying to figure out who it was before he cleared himself. No one called. No one ever has.

The wonder of Santa's gift was not so much. It wasn't even that it was a big or fancy present. The wonder of it was the magic of having received something that was not asked for and which required no thanks. It was the marvellous feeling that someone noticed you and cared enough to give you a gift with nothing expected in return. No obligations, no reciprocation, not even a thank you note!

Santa's identity has remained a mystery to the cynics in our family. The wiser of us know the answer. The note on the package read, "love Santa". That's why I believe in Santa Claus. And one day when you least expect it he'll drop by your house and bring the enchantment back to Christmas. ♦

CLAUDETTE LANGUEDOC

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**Collective
kitchens
help some
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answer
that
tough old
question:
What's for
supper?**

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GETTING THE

BY NOELINE BRIDGE

On a warm sunny fall afternoon the windows are open in the large light kitchen on the second floor of Amity House, where three women are preparing food. The trestle tables are piled high with plastic bags of vegetables, containers of meat, and cans of tomato sauce. Gloria is patting meatloaf mixture into a square pan. Karen is chopping cabbage. On the stove a stew and the beginnings of a ground meat and cabbage casserole are simmering. A huge pot of water is heating to take the leftovers for the communal soup; a pan of meatloaf is already in the oven. In addition to the stew, meatloaf, and cabbage casserole, today's five dishes include chili and Lazy Lasagne.



"I forgot to buy Parmesan, sorry!" Cheddar slices are used instead of the missing Parmesan. The cooks are substituting ingredi-

ents for ones that are cheaper or more readily available. After the cooking is done, they eat a bowl of soup together, then divide the food into family meals and the soup into pails to take home with them.

By cooking together these people have several inexpensive meals to take home. They're ready to answer the age-old question, what's for supper? They've benefitted from a collective or community kitchen.

At the site of another community kitchen a poster greets you:

"DO YOU RUN LOW ON FOOD DURING THE MONTH?"

Join one of our collective kitchens and cook five delicious nutritious meals for your family."

That's the essence of the collective kitchen project: people living on limited incomes pool their knowledge, skills, energy and money to get together once a month to plan, shop for, and cook five meals for their families.

Three to five people take part in each collective kitchen, feeding a total of anywhere from 12 to 18 "mouths". Each participant contributes between \$1.25 and \$2 per "mouth", and this is matched by the sponsoring agency, which may be a community centre, the Y, or a church. For 12 people, the grocery money for five meals will be no more than \$48, not counting the staples, the "dry

pantry" of flour, rice, and oil, provided by the agency.

All this takes a lot of planning, a week or two ahead. Flyers are passed around with substitutions—olives, chicken legs instead of oyster sauce are compiled. For the use of a van, a private kitchen, or a kitchen they can walk to.

For many low-income families, the only flexible part of their budget gets used to pay for food. Clothing and school supplies mean that they can't eat well, an alleviation they won't have enough.

In the long narrow Robertson Wesley U. have gathered to cook. Bags of broccoli, carrots, and onions are piled down the center. 38 cents a pound for the other vegetables. Chicken legs with potatoes next to the pot of water to ultimately feed 12. Potatoes layered with hash browns and cheddar pasta and cheese. "I need to look out."

Theresa gets out from home and Sha-

Christmas

Jane is a single mother of five and for the last four years, Christmas hampers have been a blessing for her family. "The extra money saved on food can be spent on presents for the kids. I make sure they get at least one gift each and a Christmas stocking."

Christmas hampers usually have a turkey or a ham, fresh vegetables, Christmas cake and

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Old Fran

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E FOOD TOGETHER



it over, carefully feeding carrots and not fingers into the hopper. Because today's dishes resemble one another, there are hardly any vegetables and cheese left by the time they assemble the fifth and last casserole, and somehow all the remaining tomatoes have gone into the soup; white sauce substitutes for the missing tomatoes, a load of leftover macaroni boosts the content, and quickly made breadcrumbs from leftover bread stretch out the cheese topping.

Diane Thursby, co-ordinator of collective kitchens for the Edmonton Board of Health and co-ordinator of the kitchen at

Amity House, explains the educational aspect of the kitchens. They are especially valuable for those with few or no basic cooking skills, and to provide suggestions for new and more varied meals. It's very difficult to think of putting variety into your food when your choices are already narrowed by your low income. Shelley Lester of the Candora community centre emphasizes that there's no room for experimentation when you're poor; you can't afford to waste food or make meals that the family won't eat.

Lack of cooking skills can be as basic as not knowing how to peel and cut up an onion. And a lack of basic education means that sometimes recipes can't be read, let alone deciphered. As Brenda Marks, of the Norwood centre, says, when people can't even decipher a recipe they can't possibly know how to substitute ingredients. In the collective kitchen, people learn by watching and listening to others.

Shelley talks about a food handling course participants can take, with a certificate. For those with a strong interest in it, the larger scale of cooking in collective kitchens can encourage people who have an interest in catering.

New immigrants find the food in supermarkets unfamiliar. As well as familiarizing them with Canadian cooking, the collective kitchen offers a little English teaching as participants learn the names for ingredients, measurements and dishes. In their turn, immigrants who are keen cooks can introduce Canadians to the food of their homeland, demonstrating the use of unfamiliar ingredients and methods and helping expand variety.

The collective kitchen seems such an obviously good idea that works well so often, it comes as a surprise to hear that kitchens sometimes founder. Practical prob-

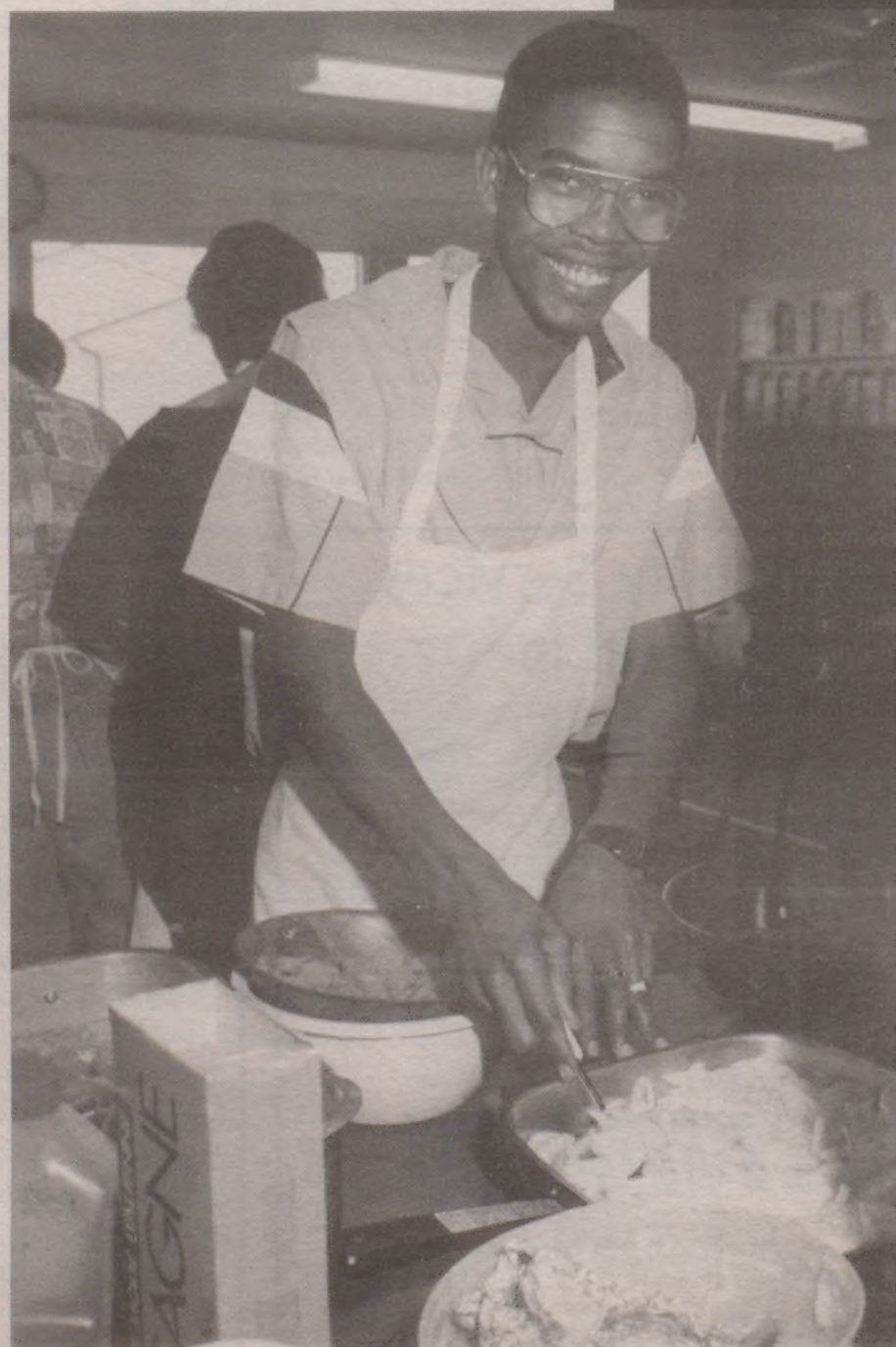
lems are usually easily solved: scheduling the kitchen to suit participants' preferred hours, and providing child care. The more complex problems are the killers.

One big problem is lack of commitment. Some participants turn up to plan but not to cook. Sometimes they do not turn up at all, or they do not have the money to pay. Although all co-ordinators stress the importance of the social side of the kitchen, tension and strife do occur, and it's sometimes severe enough to break up a kitchen group.

Participants commonly bring with them a heavy burden of worry over how to pay for the bare necessities of their existence, let alone the unpaid bills and the cost of school activities and outings. Add to all that the twin commitments of attending the planning and then the cooking sessions - leaving aside shopping - can easily become too much of a task. As Shelley Lester says, "To be planful is a luxury." Planning ahead comes easily only to the hopeful. Continual anxiety makes for a tension-ridden person, often ready to snap at any strain. One of the co-ordinators says, "Sometimes it's explosive, and we just don't know what will happen. And the next time it'll be wonderful, harmonious and happy."

At a second cooking session at Amity House Karen, Gloria and co-ordinator Diane, Bev and Desmond have come to cook. Heather came just to be there. Desmond is one of very few men in the collective kitchens scene. He says he doesn't know why more men don't come; himself he loves to cook.

Again, the windows are open and the room is bright and sunny. The chatter and laughter, the mutually sympathetic atmosphere, the wonderful smells of food cooking, the anticipation of a shared bowl of soup before going home with meals for the week ahead, are a potent reminder of how well collective kitchens can, and so often do work. ♦



ice, and so on which is kept stocked

lot of clever planning, which is done a. Cookbooks, recipes and supermarket - more green pepper instead of the instead of boned breasts, soy sauce - and a budget and shopping list shopping, the luckier groups have the vate car, or a neighbourhood supermarket; others go by bus.

income people, food money is the of their income and all too often it n unexpected bill or to buy children's ol supplies. Five meals and a pail of his is one week when the children will ation of the endless worry that they gh.

row kitchen in the basement of United Church hall several women cook on a Saturday morning. Immense arrots, potatoes and onions lie on the centre of the room - fresh broccoli was that week, and 10- and 20-pound bags ables came to under \$2 a bag each. backs attached simmer on the stove water for the soup. Today's five dishes, 13 people, feature casseroles, the veg- th meat and sauce, and topped with cheese, or breadcrumbs and cheese, or "Everything we make takes cheese - ut for bargains there."

ut the chopper/slicer she's brought haron's two young boys promptly take

hamper blessings

cookies and treats for children as well rmints and nuts.

nk Nelson says certain agencies offer gift certificates instead of a hamper. e they certificates. They can choose want at the store on the certificate.

rost, single and unemployed says that the hamper, I'd likely not have much

Christmas food. I'm a lousy cook and I'd likely end up going for a free meal at the Salvation Army or the Men's Hostel."

Hampers are much appreciated, often with unspoken gratitude. With lower welfare income and money tighter than ever, for many people Christmas looks grimmer than before. ♦

JOHN BIRD

Reforming Canada's Social Programs

BY MARJORIE BENCZ

As part of our social fabric, there is a fundamental belief that each of us has a responsibility to look after ourselves. As well, we have a collective responsibility.

Governments, our mechanism for collective responsibility, are legislated and have a moral responsibility to provide social programs in our society. Government health, education and social welfare programs are our collective commitment to each other.

On October 5, the Federal Human Resources Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, tabled a discussion paper on social security reform in Canada. Over the next few weeks, Canadians will be asked to respond to this discussion paper.

In response to this discussion paper it is important to look at trends that are taking place in our society. Changes in the global economy, in technology and in employment practices (such as down sizing and contract work) have altered the labour market. Unemployment rates remain high. Part-time and temporary jobs are becoming more common. Fewer workers are receiving benefit packages and employment security is changing. Declining labour market conditions and cut backs in government spending are resulting in higher levels of poverty. In addition, the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" is growing. Rising unemployment and growth in lower paying and part-time jobs push more middle income families into the low income category.

Poverty is the worst manifestation of the destroying of our social fabric. Poverty strips basic dignity. There are more than 1.4 million jobless Canadians. There are almost 5 million Canadians living in poverty. The best social safety net in our society is an adequate paying job with benefits.

However, because of our high unemployment and because of a variety of personal and societal concerns many of our fellow Canadians do need government assistance programs.

As part of the federal reform process, Canadians will be asked to respond to various social welfare policies. This is an opportunity for Canadians to develop social welfare policies to meet genuine needs. If you are one of the Canadians who have been asked to participate in the federal reform process, I urge you to put yourselves in the following situation: You have been unemployed for over a year. You have used up your savings and RSP's. Your home is for sale and you can't afford your mortgage. You have skipped 3 meals this week in order that your two children can eat. After you have placed yourself in this imaginary scenario, ask yourself: What kind of social safety net do Canadians need?

Other questions you may wish to consider

Will this plan get anyone out of poverty?

Will any decent jobs that get people out of poverty be created for the 1.4 million Canadians who are currently unemployed?

Will people in Canada still have the right to an adequate income? (The Canada Assistance Plan states that people in need have a right to an income that meets basic requirements. This is the legislation that has kept Canada

from having the same level of homelessness and hunger as experienced in the U.S. or other countries.)

It is evident that our social



programs need to be discussed and revamped. The goal should be getting people who are able to work into steady, full-time jobs that pay substantially more than minimum wage. Changes in our social programs can facilitate the shift from dependence to work, but only if there are enough jobs available in the first place. Social programs must be flexible and supportive for Canadians who are looking for work, can not work, or can not find work.

Jean and Lisa's story

Tony and Rhonda have been married for 12 years. Tony has a grade ten education and has worked as a carpenter

for eighteen years. They have two children, Jean and Lisa. Rhonda started working part-time at a department store when Lisa began attending school.

The last few years have been difficult on their family. Tony has been working off and on. On several occasions, he has applied for and received UIC. He has applied for several types of work, but he has not been successful in obtaining employment as a carpenter or in a related field.

Each month it becomes more difficult to meet the mortgage payments.

Should Tony, Rhonda, Jean and Lisa be penalized because they are frequent recipients of UIC?

What types of jobs should Tony be applying for in the future?

Who should pay for Tony's education or retraining?

Sara's family

Sara is a single parent with two preschoolers. She is coping with severe depression. She is on the waiting list for Edmonton Housing and is receiving welfare. Her rent is \$500; however, she only receives \$350 from welfare to cover her rent and utilities. The difference comes out of her food budget. Sara is part of a community kitchen. She does not have any money for recreation, for transportation or for children's clothes.

Sara needs the following items from Canada's Social Programs:

- an adequate income to purchase the basic necessities for herself and her children
- safe affordable housing for herself and her children
- possible training and education opportunities

Can you think of others? ♦

Community Services Referral Line 482-INFO

Linking people who need help to those who can

THE SUPPORT NETWORK



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Edmonton
423-2020

It's worth remembering...

THE GIBSON BLOCK, the city's only flatiron building, echoes with colourful tales of Edmonton past. And some of these stories are being collected into a souvenir booklet available this fall. The fully restored building will re-open as the new home of the Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre by Christmas. For details on the "house warming celebration" and the souvenir booklet, contact the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation at 424-7543.



STREET • Guide

CALGARY

ADVOCATES

- **Calgary John Howard Society** 266-4566
- **Calgary Legal Guidance** 234-9266
- **Elizabeth Fry Society** 294-0737

AIDS

- **Aids Calgary** 288-0155
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services (STD clinic)** 297-6562

DISTRESS LINE

- **Canadian Mental Health Suicide Services** 297-1744
- **Community Resource Team** 299-9699
- **Distress Centre/Drug Centre** 266-1605
- **Kids Help Phone** 1-800-668-6868
- **Parents Anonymous** 265-1117
- **Telecare Calgary** 266-0700

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Child Abuse Hot Line**
call the Operator (0), ask for Zenith 1234
- **Emergency Social Assistance**
(also for runaways) 270-5335

FAMILY SERVICES

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society**
Family Resource Centre 221-8799

FOOD

- **Interfaith Food Bank**
7475 Flint Road, SE 253-2055
- **Salvation Army Food Bank** 269-5951
Daily meals are served at a variety of locations.
Call for information 221-8780

HOUSING

- **Connection Housing Society of Calgary** 128 - 7th Ave. SE 232-6777

MEDICAL CARE

- **Calgary Urban Projects Society Health Centre** 221-8780

SHELTER (Short Term)

- **Alpha House (alcohol)** 234-7388
- **Drop-in Centre** 266-3600
- **Native Women's Shelter** 531-1972
- **Salvation Army Booth Centre** 262-6188
- **Women's Emergency Shelter** 232-8717
- **Servants Anonymous** 237-8477

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Alberta Safe House Society** 244-4737
- **Avenue 15** 244-4847
- **EXIT Community Outreach** 262-9953

EDMONTON

ADVOCATES

- **Bissell Centre**
10527 - 96 Street 423-2285
- **Boyle Street Co-op**
9720 - 102 Avenue 424-4106

DISTRESS LINE

- **482-HELP** 482-4357

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Emergency Social Services** 427-3390
- **Sexual Assault Centre**
24-hour crisis line 423-4121
- **Women's Emergency Accommodation** 423-5302
- **Win House** 479-0058
- **Lurana Centre** 474-5875
- **Herb Jamieson Centre**
10014 - 105A Avenue 429-3470
- **A Safe Place** 464-7233
- **Emergency Relief Services** 428-4422

FOOD

- **Main Food Bank** 425-4190

DETOX CENTRES

- **AADAC Recovery Centre** 24 hrs.
10302 - 107 Street 427-4291

George Spady Centre

- 10015 - 105A Avenue 424-8335

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Boyle-McCauley Health Centre**
10628 - 96 Street 422-7333
- **AIDS Network**
#201 - 11456 Jasper Avenue 488-5816
- **Sexually Transmitted Disease Services**
10105 - 109 Street 427-2834

LEGAL SERVICES

- **Student Legal Services** 492-2226
- **Legal Aid**
#300 - 10320 - 102 Ave. 427-7575

SENIORS

- **Operation Friendship**
9526 - 106 Avenue 429-2626

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Crossroads** 474-7421
- **Boyle Street Co-op Youth Outreach** 424-4106
- **Youth Emergency Shelter**
9310 - 82 Avenue 468-7070
- **Inner City Housing Project** 424-7866
or 479-1609

SASKATOON

ADVOCATES

- **Hands-on Street Ministries**
(Drop In Center)
117A - 20th Street West 653-4182
- **Saskatoon John Howard Society**
171 - 2nd Ave. South 244-8347
- **Alcoholics Anonymous**
24 hour information 665-6727
- **Elizabeth Fry Society**
307 - 135 21st Street East 934-4606
- **Family Support Centre**
315 Avenue M. South 933-7751

DETOX CENTRES

- **Larson House**
130 Avenue O South 244-1385
- **Calder Centre** 933-5867
Outpatients Clinic 933-5867

EMERGENCY

- **Saskatoon Crisis Intervention**
1410 - 20 Street West 933-6200
- **Child Abuse & Neglect** 933-6200

FOOD

- **Saskatoon Food Bank**
202 Avenue C South 664-6565
- **Friendship Inn**
619 - 20 Street West 242-5122

Salvation Army

- 339 Avenue C South 244-6280

HEALTH SERVICES

- **Mental Health Clinic**
165 - 3rd Avenue South 933-6500
- **AIDS - Saskatoon**
414 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-5005
- **Society for Depression**
304 - 220 3rd Avenue South 242-1833
- **STD Clinic (Sexually Transmitted Disease)**
310 Idylwyld Drive 655-4642

SHELTER

- **Salvation Army**
339 Avenue C South 244-6280
- **Interval House**
712 Victoria Avenue 244-0185
- **Y.W.C.A.**
510 - 25 Street East 244-0944
- **Saskatoon Rainbow Centre** 683-1925
- **New Start Homes**
127 Avenue D. North 664-8848

YOUTH

- **Saskatoon Downtown Youth Centre**
301 - 1st Avenue N. 931-6644

SANTA IMPROVEMENT

BY DEANNA DOUGLAS

In "The Santa Clause" Tim Allen finds himself managing a workshop beyond even his wildest dreams - where elves are the only ones behind the workbench. But is it the kind of place we should pay real-life money to visit?

Although it seems to take Allen himself a while to realize it, this is not really a film for the Home Improvement TV audience. "The Santa Clause" is decidedly a family movie which will probably be most enjoyed by children. It's

cute, clean and predictable; a feel-good Hollywood movie. And, after getting off to a slow start, it largely succeeds on that level. I think kids will particularly enjoy the imaginative set of Santa's workshop, although I'm sure they would like to spend more time there.

If you decide to take in "The Santa Clause" there are several aspects of the film that would be interesting to discuss, particularly with older kids. I was pleasantly surprised, for example, to see that there was minimal attention given to the material aspects of the season. I would also like to hear a 10 year old's opinion on the premise of the film, which is that Christmas is a magical time that lives in the heart of children until it is lost somewhere on the way to adulthood. We should indeed encourage the imaginative child-like way of seeing life so that it will last a little bit longer, both in ourselves and others. And there was even a short

stab taken at the corporate advertising and manufacturing world in the form of a promotion featuring Santa on a tank.

Perhaps the most important things to ask your kids about are the unspoken assumptions in "Santa Clause". The gender stereotyping is strong, but the most glaring problem I noted is of particular concern in the Christmas season - and for your Spare Change vendor. All of the main characters in the film were from the upper-middle class, and all of the homes Santa visited were large fully furnished single-unit

dwelling with white inhabitants.

The writers of this film seemed to think that they were addressing a big social issue when they examined the way Santa visits houses that don't even have a chimney. The fact that millions of children who celebrate Christmas live in houses that could never fit this Santa and his entourage on

the roof, was completely ignored. As I walked out of the theatre I found myself wondering whether there would be room in Tim Allen's big red bag for food for a hungry child.

It is true that we tend to forget some of the real wonders of the Yuletide season.

But I think that my Christmas wish for next year is that tinsel town start to give us more than an occasional glance at the real world inhabited by most of the people on this continent. We'll have to leave the rest of the world for another day. ♦

MOVIE • Review



FACTORY DIRECT HOTTUBS

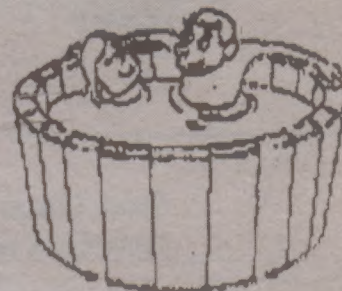
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THE
SUPPORT
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SIGNS • for the Times

BY ELYSE FREEMANSON

Aquarius



JANUARY 21
FEBRUARY 19

Fellow Aquarians, if ever there was a time of year to practise your natural humanitarian and social concerns, this is it! The Christmas season finds many of your fellow human beings feeling down and out. This is a prime time to help out any way you can. Make phone calls, talk to friends' you will find some way of helping out exactly where the help is most needed. If you are lucky and have strong family ties, there are so many ways to enjoy yourselves and still practice all of the above-mentioned activities.

Leo



JULY 24
AUGUST 23

Boy, Leos, do you love this time of year! This is one of those times you adore because it gives you the excuse to shop 'til you drop. You love to purchase the very best quality presents you can afford for your family and friends. Of course, you hope that others will also be thinking of you in this way; nothing cheap or shoddy for you! Your heart is in the right place, but it's very easy for you to go overboard with your extravagance. Most Leos can be fairly traditional at Christmas as well and very sentimental. You also wish to be surrounded by family and loved ones at this time for feasting and fun and celebrations.

Pisces



FEBRUARY 20
MARCH 20

First things, first Pisces. Get enough rest, sleep and relaxation this month and you should be able to handle all of the stress and fun of this holiday season. For you Pisceans born during the first half of your Sun-sign period, this special message is most important. One way of handling extra stress and "poor me" feelings is to give of yourself in some way, you will find some sense of peace, goodwill and personal satisfaction. There are many paths you may take. If you have a wonderful family scenario happening, you are very lucky indeed.

Virgo



AUGUST 24
SEPTEMBER 23

Virgos, most of you are looking very much forward to celebrating all that the holiday season can offer. You might especially be looking at being invited out to several parties, etc. Just take it a little easy, it will be very tempting to overindulge in several areas, particularly food and drink. At any rate, the holidays look great for you as far as all the socializing you will be doing. Many Virgos adore shopping for their family and loved ones. You especially enjoy shopping in unique, little out of the way shops, and are a whiz at finding just exactly the perfect little gifts. People love the way you like to present several small, exquisitely wrapped little presents to them.

Aries



MARCH 21
APRIL 20

Aries, this is a really fun time of year for you. All of you love to give and receive gifts at Christmas. Especially receiving! However, many of you will be very conscientious of the concept of sharing and giving more than ever. Your gift-giving this season will reflect to everyone just how much they mean to you. Your originality and sensitivity will certainly be apparent to your loved ones on Christmas day. On another note, continue to practice good healthy habits in the areas of plenty of rest and good regular food schedules in order to enjoy the holidays to the fullest. And you will.

Libra



SEPTEMBER 24
OCTOBER 23

Librans, for you also this holiday season, there should be plenty of opportunities to party, socialize and perhaps even a short trip or two could be part of the scenario. It looks like many of you might very well be hosting a wonderful Christmas get together in your homes for family and or friends and loved ones. If anyone know how to present a classy holiday table of delights, it's you! You delight in gourmet goodies, all the fixings and decorative trimmings - including your best crystal, china and silverware. Plus, you have a reputation for being polite and the hostess with the mostest! One other thing you like to do is have a wide variety of interesting people at your parties for intellectual stimulation.

Taurus



APRIL 21
MAY 21

Ah, Taureans, the holiday season is another excuse to gorge, gorge, gorge, what the heck, go ahead. January is coming and you will pay the price for that! You believe heartily in the good life and Christmas is for sure one of them. Taurus, can you so something to alleviate the pain and suffering of others this holiday season? I am sure you can; maybe the opportunity to help others gorge for a day at least, or helping out in some way uniquely yours to help make the holiday season a little more cheerful for others not as fortunate as you are. I know, you and your family members come first, this is only normal.

Scorpio



OCTOBER 24
NOVEMBER 22

Many happy returns on your birthdays this month Scorpios! For most of you, this is truly a powerful, magnetic month. You should have tons of charisma, and social and romantic popularity that will keep you happily busy. With the emphasis on your leadership and drive you will have great success in all your personal contacts and interests. Special note: continue working on self-improvement; you will succeed. Good luck!

Gemini



MAY 22
JUNE 21

Dear Geminis, 'tis the Christmas season and you have a bazillion friends to think about in terms of gift-giving. Well, if you financially have all the resources to handle all of this - great! On the other hand, there might be a few of you out there who simply cannot afford the extravaganzas of gift-giving you would all love to indulge in. Ah yes, cutbacks and reality intrude. The only advice I can give out is to simply be simple and frugal this year. Look for tiny little treasures that will appease, amuse or inspire your loved ones. As long as it comes from the heart, that's the main thing! If you have a special someone in your life right now, anything that can be shared would be most appreciated.

Sagittarius



NOVEMBER 23
DECEMBER 21

Scorpios, your social calendar looks pretty promising for all the seasonal activities going. Trying to get enough rest and relaxation during all this, and also attempting to keep a lid on all of those excesses you are well known for will definitely be a challenge! Romantically, and financially, everything is starting to look very promising. You could easily meet up with someone interesting as you mix and mingle during the holiday festivities. In the area of gift giving, many of you do love to run about and search out weird and interesting gifts for your loved ones; but even better, you love receiving presents even more! You can be pretty secretive about your wants and needs and wishes, so it can be a bit difficult sometimes to figure out what the heck to buy you folks!

Cancer



JUNE 22
JULY 23

Cancerians, yours is another sign that is very tradition oriented. You will want your family all together and around you for the holidays. Of course, you will be making sure that the Christmas table will be groaning with all of your traditional favourite foods. No one could ever accuse you of being miserly in this area; no one will be leaving your feast hungry! Your sign also loves to give and receive home-made goodies; delicious and nicely wrapped gourmet food items are always a hit with you.

Capricorn



DECEMBER 22
JANUARY 20

Ok, a lot of you Capricorns born during the last ten days of the month still have all kinds of issues to deal with: burning the candles at both ends could be part of the problem. The Christmas season is upon us, try to burn the candle at only one end, much less stressful and still very pretty for the Yule-tide season. As always, tradition and family play a great role in your lives, so most of you will be looking forward to being with your loved ones for Christmas. Give of yourselves and you can never go wrong!

Help Make A Job

SUPPORT OUR NEWSPAPER

Spare Change is in the business of publishing a newspaper, and making jobs for the people who sell the papers on the street. Hundreds of people have helped feed their families by selling the newspaper. It's important work for many prairie households.

You can help. The costs of producing the paper aren't covered by sales alone.

Your small contribution can help one family work for a bit more income. Some examples are:

\$3 Buys a vendor tag

\$10 Sarts off a new vendor

\$25 Publishes a colour photo

\$50 Designs and prepares one whole page

\$75 Covers one day of distribution, getting vendors out working.

To help create more jobs for more people make a contribution to **Spare Change** and we'll send you a charitable tax receipt. It is a very good cause. You'll be helping not to get someone off the street, but to keep them out on the street - with a job.

Send your contribution to **Make A Job** to:

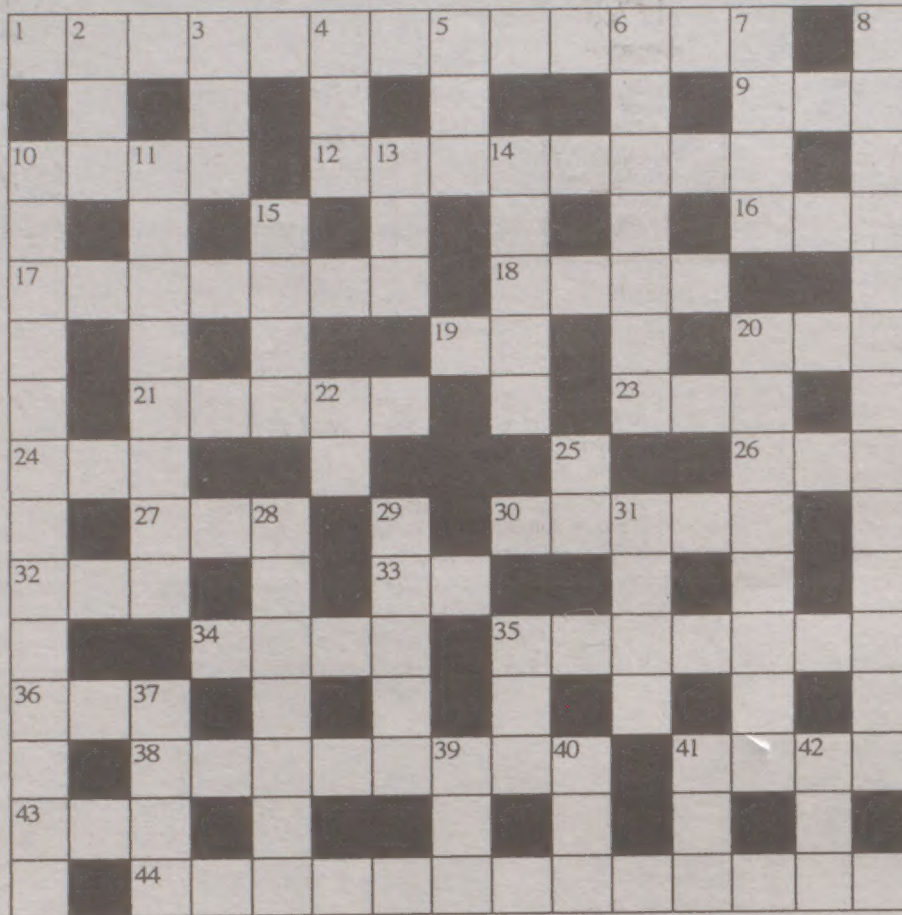
Spare Change • 10527-96 Street • Edmonton, Alberta • T5H 2H6

CROSSWORD • Puzzle 11

ACROSS

- 1 Farewell speaker (13)
- 9 Flightless bird (3)
- 10 Wan (4)
- 12 Characters that sing (8)
- 16 To snooze (3)
- 17 _____ riche (7)
- 18 Latin year (4)
- 19 Short advertisement (2)
- 20 Cheesy Canadian conflict (3)
- 21 Get stressed when these endings fray (5)
- 23 A gossip bends this (3)
- 24 Fruity dessert (3)
- 26 Anti-aircraft gunfire, twice repeated (3)
- 27 Game, _____ and match (3)
- 30 Slang: To leave (5)
- 32 German spirit (3)
- 33 You and me (2)
- 34 Blues and _____ (4)
- 35 Mosquito-borne disease (7)
- 36 Solo in Star Wars (3)
- 38 Oblong (8)
- 41 Tipper, who doesn't like rock (4)
- 43 Royal Naval Reserve (3)

BY SUSAN ANDREWS



DOWN

- 2 American state, abbrv. (3)
- 3 Shakespearean here (3)
- 4 Nigerian (3)
- 5 Definitive article (3)
- 6 High-pressure (7)
- 7 Stick it out and get in trouble (4)
- 8 Quasimodo cetacean? (4, 4, 5)
- 10 Tightwads (5, 8)
- 11 Volume too high? (8)
- 13 Stone fruit, only half (3)
- 14 Prepared (5)
- 15 Bosch, Barlett (4)
- 20 Religious choral work (8)
- 22 Valley Forge State (2)
- 25 Vice president (2)
- 28 Tramp (7)
- 29 Mouthy flower? (5)
- 31 Pause (4)
- 35 French me (3)
- 37 Emperor who fiddled (4)
- 39 Small one or small drink (3)
- 40 Jailbird (3)
- 41 Octane, high-test, leaded (3)
- 42 French king (3)

► Puzzle 11 answers will be published in the January issue of *Spare Change*.

Answers to November Crossword #10

B	I	O	D	E	G	R	A	D	A	B	L	E
M	N	I	R	S	B	A	U					
E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	S	L	U	M	E
A	E	O	B	I	E	P	M					
L	U	X	E	B	E	A	S	T	O	B	O	E
S	E	S	T	S	L	N						
N	D	G	F	E	N	L	C	I				
W	O	O	D	E	R	H	E	C	K	N	O	
H	R	D	G	G	S							
E	R	A	S	T	O	T	A	L	A	B	B	A
E	T	O	B	R	A	A	B					
L	O	I	N	S	B	A	C	C	H	A	N	A
S	O	L	E	O	I	A	E					
U	N	F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E	L	E

The LAST 30 for Free • The LAST 30 for Free

Agency Needs in Your Community

CALGARY
CALGARY URBAN PROJECT SOCIETY
needs toys (new/gently used)!
"Lunch Bunch" parent support group is growing into a Family Resource Centre with a toy lending library. Call (403)221-8799.

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EDMONTON BOARD OF HEALTH - BIRTH CONTROL CENTRE
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CHRIST LOVE MINISTRIES ASSOCIATION
is accepting Christmas Donations on food, clothing, & gift items etc. for direct distribution to those in need. Call Linda at 486-9536.

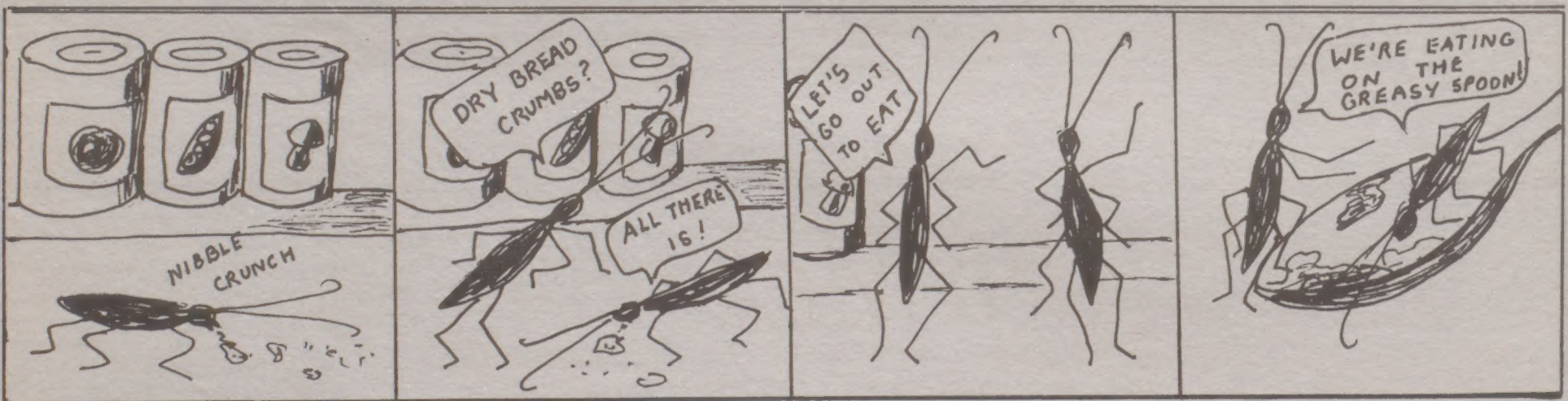


THANK YOU to all the contributors who have put notices in *Spare Change's 30 For Free* small ad column. There has not been a huge interest from advertisers, however, and *30 For Free* won't be run in future issues.

The LAST 30 for Free • The LAST 30 for Free

OVERKILL

39A YOUNG



SOUPLINE BOB



Saturday night soup line

BY LINDA DUMONT

It's just after seven on Saturday night on Edmonton's 96th Street — the drag. A converted school bus has pulled into a nearly empty parking lot. Bold black letters on the side of the bus read "Community Services" and beneath that in smaller letters, "Seventh Day Adventist Church". There are several cars parked behind the bus and people are milling about. As I approach a man hands me a folded piece of paper.

"I wrote it myself," he says. It's a tract. I climb the steps into the bus. There are benches on either side and a partition across the front to separate the women and girls who are serving from those of us being served. People are lined up to get soup, doughnuts and hot chocolate.

The men seated on the bench push over to make room for me. It's cold outside, but it is nice and cozy in here.

Across from me, a father is having soup with his two children, a girl of about ten and a small boy. Another man comes in with a baby in a stroller and a toddler in a back pack. One of the serving women hands him a bag of clothing for the children.

I recognise a Spare Change vendor. He tells me how he was cut off AISH (aid to the handicapped) after twelve years and now sells papers.

"I had a slow day today," he says. "I was ready to give up when someone handed me a five. Now I can get a room for the night at the Salvation Army."

A woman comes in. I recognise her from the street, where she sits pan-handling. She is wear-

ing a bright red coat. When I compliment her on it, she explains, "I got it from the Emergency Relief Centre."

When the line-up thins down a bit I grab a cup of hot chocolate. People are still coming and going. Some have brought containers to take soup home for others who were unable to come.

A little later a blue step van from the People's Church pulls into another lot up the street. It's now a busy place. From the back of the van soup is served, and cakes and pas-

try are distributed. Outside, coffee and hot chocolate are handed out and a man is passing out bags of buns from a black garbage bag.

A crowd presses in around the van. Many are waving their hands to get cakes and other pastry. Those not waiting to be served stand around in small groups, talking, visiting with friends or receiving counselling or prayer.

A woman spots me. She looks discouraged. "I couldn't get a cake," she explains. "They just give them to all the men."

I promise to see what I can do. I'm taller than she is. I press into the crowd behind the van, raise my hand, and I'm rewarded with a pumpkin pie.

"Will this do?" I ask, handing her the prize. It looks so good that I consider risking the line-up again to get myself one.

After about an hour, the press begins to thin. I spot an old friend, laden with bags of buns and pastry. She tells me how she was knocked out and robbed by four men.

"They tied me to a mattress in an abandoned house," she says, "It was seven days before the police found me."

All for the price of a pack of cigarettes. What can I say? She is shivering and the cold is nipping at my fingertips, so we walk across the street to the mission to warm up.

By ten-thirty, it's all over for the soup line. The empty bowls and spoons are picked up, leaving the parking lot clean and deserted. ♦

WAVING THEIR HANDS TO GET CAKES



PHOTOS (INSIDE BUS) • LINDA DUMONT

12

SPARE

CHANGE

DECEMBER

1994

P
H
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Who are you?

You bought the newspaper and we hope you find it interesting and enjoyable. But just who are you? We'd like to know and we'd like to know what you think about Spare Change. Take just a few minutes to fill our questionnaire and send it in. By telling us who you are, and what you like, you'll help us get better.

1 What is your favourite part of the newspaper?

Are you...

2 ☐ male
☐ female

3

- ☐ 0-25 years
- ☐ 25-50 years
- ☐ 50+ years

4

- ☐ a grade 12 graduate
- ☐ a college graduate
- ☐ a university graduate
- ☐ other

5

- ☐ living cheque to cheque
- ☐ enough income to save a bit
- ☐ income is not a concern

You would rather...

6

- ☐ go shopping for clothes
- ☐ go work out
- ☐ stay home and watch a movie

7

- ☐ get involved in a church group
- ☐ go fishing
- ☐ volunteer for your local community

8

- ☐ consider the environmental impact of products
- ☐ buy products on sale

9

- ☐ do something to help the less fortunate
- ☐ let government help them

10

- ☐ read a newspaper or magazine
- ☐ read a book
- ☐ watch news on TV

Just clip this out, tuck in in an envelope and send it in to:

Spare Change Newspaper
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 2H6

Or you can bypass Canada Post and fax a copy to 429-7908. Your information helps our editorial staff and advertisers to know who you are and what you like.

Thank-you.

Spare Change

Helping People Help Themselves

Get your copy of Spare Change through the mail!

Just \$30 a year will get you all 12 issues of the newspaper. **YES, I want to subscribe.** I am enclosing \$30 (cheque or money order) for my 12 issues.

Mail to: **Spare Change**
10527-96 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5H 2H6

(FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)

VENDOR

Spare Change is a street newspaper, sold on the street for the benefit of the street vendors. But, if you can't easily get it from a vendor; we are offering subscriptions by mail, as well. Vendors will still benefit from subscriptions.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Postal Code _____